IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Once amended) A method [for allowing a designer to specify whether a web page layout is primarily by rows or by columns], comprising [the steps, performed by a data processing system, of]:

[receiving input from the user specifying] obtaining a layout of display elements on [the] a web page;

determining a primary split direction for the web page; and

determining [needed] splits in the primary split direction for the web page[; and

displaying the web page on a display screen, including indications of the locations of the determined splits].

2.   (Once amended) The method of claim 1, where the step of determining [s] the primary split direction includes the step of receiving [an] input from [the] a user indicating [a] the primary split direction.

3.   (Once amended) The method of claim 1, further including the step of [allowing the user to lock] enabling the size of selected text of the web page to be locked.

4.   (Once amended) The method of claim 1, [wherein the] further comprising displaying the web page on a display screen, including indications of the locations of the determined splits[step if performed when the user presses a "View Table" button on the display] .

5.   (Once amended) [A] The method of claim 1, further comprising [for allowing a designer to specify whether a web page layout is primarily by rows or by columns, comprising the steps, performed by a data processing system, of:

receiving input from the user specifying a layout of display elements on the web page;

determining a primary split direction for the web page;

determining needed splits in the primary split direction for the web page; and]

generating an internal representation of the web page where the layout of the web page is primarily by rows or primarily by columns in accordance with the splits [determining step].

Please cancel claim 6 and 7.

8.   (Once amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the generating step [if] is performed [when] after receiving a request from a [the] user [presses a "Publish" button on the display].

9.   (Once amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the generating step [if] is performed [when] after receiving a request from a [the] user [presses a "Preview" button on the display].

Please add the claims 10-19 as follows:

--10.   A system comprising:

means for obtaining a layout of display elements on a web page;

means for determining a primary split direction for the web page; and

means for determining splits in the primary split direction for the web page.

11. A computer-readable storage medium storing program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

obtaining a layout of display elements on a web page;

determining a primary split direction for the web page; and

determining splits in the primary split direction for the web page.

12. A system comprising:

a device for obtaining a layout of display elements on a web page, and a primary split direction for the web page; and

memory storing software code for determining splits in the primary split direction for the web page.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the primary split direction is set by the user.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the primary split direction is a default setting.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the primary split direction is either vertical or horizontal.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein, for a vertical primary split direction, the software code generates needed splits in a columnar orientation.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein, for a horizontal primary split direction, the software code generates needed splits in a row orientation.

18. The system of claim 12, wherein the software code displays the web page indicating the splits.

19. The system if claim 12, wherein the layout includes frames and wherein the software code determines splits for each frame independently.--